

REMARKS

The indicated allowability of claim 14 is gratefully acknowledged. New claim 47 includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 14 and is believed to be in condition for allowance, together with its dependent claims 48-58 (which correspond to canceled claims 12-13, 15, 17, 19, 23-26 and 30-31).

The indicated allowability of claim 27 is gratefully acknowledged. New claim 59 includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 27 and is believed to be in condition for allowance, together with its dependent claims 60-71 (which correspond to canceled claims 12-15, 17, 19, 23-26 and 30-31).

The indicated allowability of claim 28 is gratefully acknowledged. New claim 72 includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 28 and is believed to be in condition for allowance, together with its dependent claims 73-86 (which correspond to canceled claims 12-15, 17, 19, 23-27 and 29-31).

The indicated allowability of claim 29 is gratefully acknowledged. New claim 87 includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 29 and is believed to be in condition for allowance, together with its dependent claims 88-101 (which correspond to canceled claims 12-15, 17, 19, 23-28 and 30-31).

There are now fifty five (55) total claims and four (4) independent claims. Applicants previously paid for forty six (46) total claims and nine (9) independent claims. The excess claims fee of \$162.00 for nine (9) extra claims is enclosed.

The Cross-Reference to Related Applications has been updated.

The Information Disclosure Statement filed February 13, 2003 contained only one sheet.

There being no other claims at issue herein, an expedited passage of this application to the Issue Branch is respectfully requested.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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